from Nandyal to Ycrraguntla was included in the Budget 1996-97. The anticipated cost of the project is Rs. 174 crores.

(b) The approx. amount spent so far on the project upto 31.3.2002 is Rs. 5.52 crore. The outlay provided for the project during 2001-2002 was Rs. 2 crore and proposed during 2002-2003 is Rs. 1 crore.

(c) and (d) No target date has yet been fixed. The work will be progressed and completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

Amendment in Railway Protection Force Act

2887. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been actively considering to amend the Railway Protection Force Act, to include protection and safety of passengers;

(b) if so, whether the RPF is presently providing protection to the Railway property only;

(c) if so, whether in view of steep increase in various incidents in running trains, the RPF would be strengthened to deal with the situation; and

(d) if so, by when RPF Act would be amended suitably, for the safety of passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The proposal is yet to be considered by the Cabinet and hence the details cannot be made available at this stage.